

RACKET SQUAD

IN ACTION



A LAW AND ORDER PUBLICATION

10¢
CDC

NO. 2

DICE GAMES EXPOSED
BY SIDNEY RADNER

THE PHONEY
DIRECTORY RACKET

BONG!

ARE YOU WITH IT?..
ALL ABOUT FAKE GAMES

THE HOLLYWOOD
STORY SWINDLE

LONELY HEARTS
RACKET

ALBERT
TYLER





WEB COMIC
UNIVERSE.COM

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

The
**TWO
BUCK
"HYPE"**
WATCH OUT
FOR THIS
SHORT CHANGE
GYD

R. GIORDANO

ALL I WANT IS A PACK OF CHEWING GUM. I **THOUGHT** I HAD AN ODD NICKEL, BUT MY SMALLEST IS THIS **TWO DOLLAR BILL**

THAT'S QUITE ALL RIGHT!



I DON'T MIND CHANGING IT. HERE'S A DOLLAR BILL...



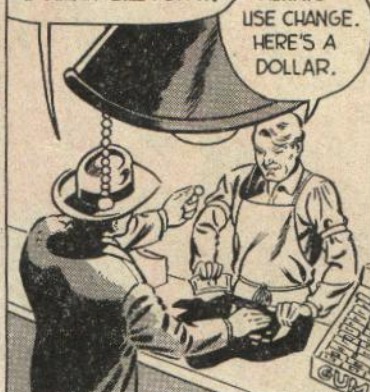
...AND NINETY-FIVE CENTS IN CHANGE. HELP YOURSELF TO A PACK OF GUM.

BUT WAIT...



HERE'S THE NICKEL I WAS SURE I HAD! I'LL ADD IT TO THE CHANGE AND YOU CAN GIVE ME A DOLLAR BILL FOR IT.

FINE! I CAN ALWAYS USE CHANGE. HERE'S A DOLLAR.



AND HERE'S THE CHANGE. 50 CENTS, 75, 85, 95, AND THE NICKEL IS A DOLLAR!



BUT SINCE IT MAKES **TWO BUCKS** IN ALL, WHY NOT TAKE IT AND GIVE ME THAT TWO DOLLAR BILL WE STARTED WITH!



FAIR ENOUGH! HERE'S YOUR TWO-SPOT, AND DON'T FORGET YOUR CHEWING GUM!



FAIR ENOUGH... BUT ONLY FOR THE "HYPE ARTIST" AS THIS BREED OF CHEATERS CALL THEMSELVES... STUDY IT CAREFULLY AND YOU'LL SEE THAT THE HYPE MAN PUT ONE DOLLAR IN HIS POCKET, BEFORE HE "FOUND" THE NICKEL THERE... THE STOREKEEPER BROUGHT BACK A DOLLAR BILL OF HIS OWN WHEN HE HANDED OVER THE TWO-SPOT AT THE FINISH!

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

DORIS KING WAS A "LUCKY LADY"
WHO PLANNED

A TRIP TO HOLLYWOOD

ONLY TO LEARN THAT SHE
WAS BEING TAKEN BY A
PAIR OF RACKETEERS!

COME ON, HUGH.
LET'S TALK TO
THAT LUCKY LADY
WHILE SHE'S STILL
STAGE-STRUCK!

NOW YOU'RE
TALKING,

PAUL. THAT'S WHEN THEY
REALLY FALL FOR YOUR
SILVER-TONGUED SPIEL!

MONROE HIGH
SCHOOL
PRESENTS
DORIS KING
IN
"LUCKY LADY"

SPRING IS IN THE AIR! WITH IT COME HIGH SCHOOL
PLAYS, GRADUATIONS, DREAMS OF THE FUTURE! THAT'S
WHEN THE FISH START BITING AND THE LEECHES GET
BUSY TOO! WHAT COULD BE MORE GLAMOROUS THAN
THE PROSPECT OF BECOMING A HOLLYWOOD MOVIE
STAR WITHIN THE SPAN OF A SUMMER VACATION? THAT
WAS WHAT PAUL DE ROCHE AND HUGH CRAYLE BANKED
ON IN THEIR RACKET!

DORIS, YOU' WERE
WONDERFUL!

OH, JACK...
IT WAS

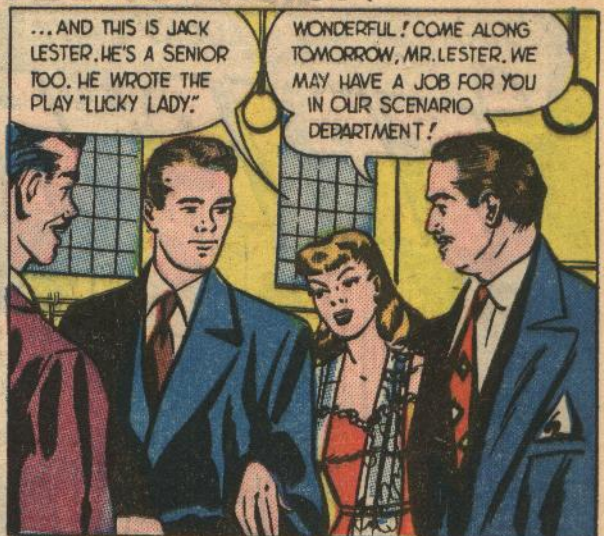
ALL BECAUSE
YOU WROTE SUCH
A WONDERFUL
PLAY!

TWO GENTLEMEN
TO SEE YOU, MISS.

A-Z STUDIO
HOLLYWOOD, CALIF.
PAUL DE ROCHE
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

FROM HOLLYWOOD! OH, JACK,
I MUST SEE THEM RIGHT AWAY!
HERE, HOLD THESE FLOWERS!

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION



RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

ONE WEEK LATER...

BOY, WE'VE HAD **FIFTY** APPLICANTS FOR SUMMER CLASSES SINCE WE USED DORIS KING FOR THE COME-ON NOW WE CAN HIRE THE HOTEL BALL-ROOM.

AT ONLY TEN BUCKS EACH, WHERE'S THE PROFIT?

RIGHT HERE, SISTER!



THEY PAY FOR FILM USED IN SCREEN TESTS AND DRAMATIC SCENES, BUT ALL WE USE IS AN EMPTY CAMERA!

AND I'VE MADE PERCENTAGE DEALS WITH BEAUTY SHOPS, COSTUME STORES AND ALL THE REST. THE NEXT DODGE IS A **CONTEST!**



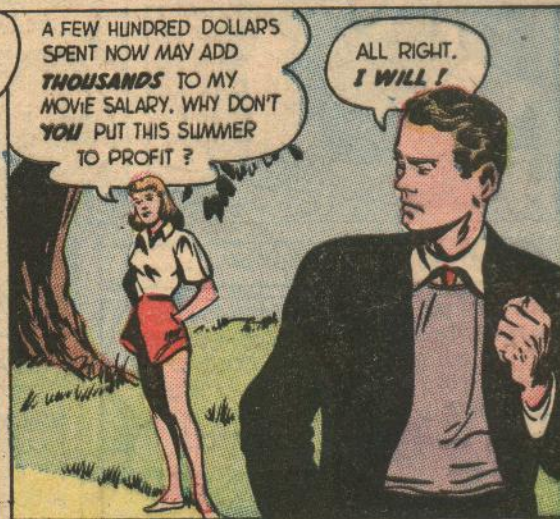
MEANWHILE...

LOOK, DORIS, WE'D MADE PLANS FOR THIS SUMMER... BUT NOW YOU'RE WASTING ALL YOUR TIME AND MONEY ON COURSES, PHOTOS...

I HAPPEN TO BE **PRACTICING POISE** AND TRYING TO **READ MY LINES**, MR. JACK LESTER!

A FEW HUNDRED DOLLARS SPENT NOW MAY ADD **THOUSANDS** TO MY MOVIE SALARY. WHY DON'T **YOU** PUT THIS SUMMER TO PROFIT?

ALL RIGHT. **I WILL!**



I WISH I'D NEVER BROUGHT THAT PICTURE IN HERE! I THINK THE WHOLE DEAL IS A RACKET!

I DOUBT THAT YOU CAN PROVE IT, BUT I LIKE YOUR SPIRIT. I'LL GIVE YOU A JOB AS A REPORTER FOR THE SUMMER.

SO YOU'RE WORKING FOR THE REGISTER NOW? HOW ABOUT A FEATURE STORY ON THE PROGRESS WE'RE MAKING WITH OUR MOVIE SCHOOL?

WHY...WHY, YES, I GUESS IT WOULD MAKE A GOOD STORY, MR. DE ROCHE.



RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION



ALL THAT PROSPERITY ON OTHER PEOPLE'S MONEY SPIKED JACK'S SUSPICION BUT GOOD! LIKE DORIS, HE FELL FOR THE GAME AND EVEN SOLD THE DOUBTING EDITOR!

YES, A-Z HAS AN OFFICE ON SUNSET BOULEVARD, A STUDIO IN CULVER CITY AND THEY'RE BRINGING IN A **DOZEN** STARS TO JUDGE THEIR GRAND CONTEST!

A GOOD STORY! WRITE IT!

A FULL PAGE STORY RATING US TRIPLE-A! NOW WE CAN SELL BANQUET TICKETS AT TEN DOLLARS A THROW. ALL THEIR RELATIVES WILL BUY THEM!

AND WE CAN SOAK THE STUDENTS FOR A TWO-WEEKS GRADUATE COURSE, WITH SOME PONEY OSCARS FOR THE PRIZES!

LATER...

YOUR STORY DID ALL THIS! I'M **SO** HAPPY, JACK!

SO AM I! THE EDITOR CAN'T GET OUT TO ARIZONA FOR THE VETERAN'S CONVENTION, SO HE'S LETTING ME COVER IT. BUT I'LL BE BACK IN TIME FOR THE CONTEST BANQUET!

A-Z- STUDIO AWARDS FOR GRAND STARLET CONTEST....

BANQUET TICKETS \$10. OSCARS TO BE REWARD-

AND AS THE GREAT DAY NEARED...

IT'S COST ME A HUNDRED DOLLARS SO FAR, BUT IT'S WORTH EVERY PENNY!

MY PARENTS HAVE GIVEN ME THE MONEY I WAS GOING TO USE FOR COLLEGE, SO I CAN HAVE IT IN HOLLYWOOD!

WHILE IN PHOENIX, ARIZONA...

SURE, YOU'VE GOT TIME TO FLY TO LOS ANGELES AND CATCH THE EASTBOUND SKYLINER, WITH A COUPLE OF HOURS TO SPARE!

THAT'S ALL I WANT TO KNOW!

AIRLINE TICKETS

FLY
EWA

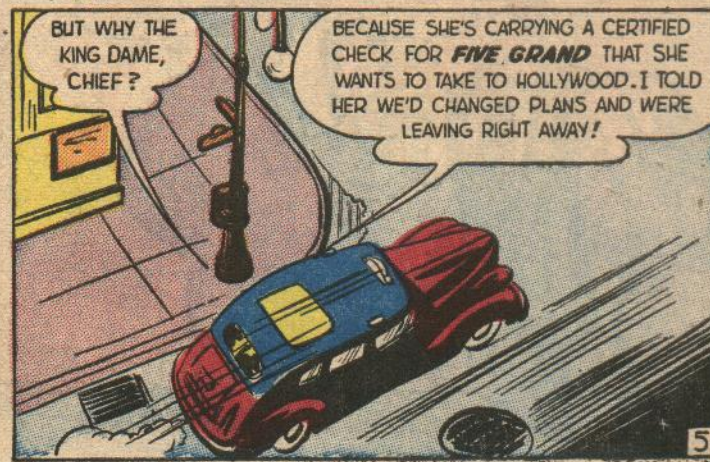
HERE'S WHERE I GET THE **HOLLYWOOD** SLANT ON THE BIG CONTEST THAT A-Z IS RUNNING BACK EAST!

PAUL DE ROOS
CUTS VICE PRES.

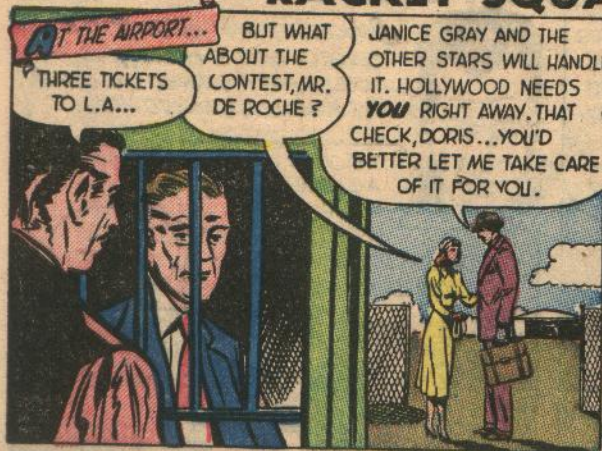
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A-Z-PRODUCTION
1 FLIGHT UP
WESTERN
DISBURSE
1 FLIGHT UP

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION



RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION



WITH THEIR SCHOOL, THE UNUSED FILM, COMMISSIONS AND BANQUET TICKETS, THESE RACKETEERS HAD SHOWN A \$5000 PROFIT WHICH THEY EXPECTED TO DOUBLE WHEN THEY CASHED DORIS' CHECK. MOST OF THE MONEY WAS PAID BACK TO THE PEOPLE WHO HAD BEEN DUPED, BUT LIKE SO MANY SWINDLERS THEY OVERPLAYED THEIR GAME... AND THAT WAS THEIR UNDOING!

J.J. O'Malley
INSPECTOR

THE END

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

ARE YOU WITH IT!



"THIS IS THE STORY OF TOM CRAIG, A LIKEABLE YOUNG CHAP WHO OVERNIGHT WAS TRANSFORMED FROM A "CHUMP" INTO A "STICK" BUT NEVER DID BECOME A "GRIFTER"... FOR REASONS THAT HIS STORY WILL EXPLAIN... IT BEGAN THE NIGHT WHEN THE CARNIVAL CAME TO TOWN AND TOM, TO HIS SURPRISE, BEGAN WINNING MONEY ON THE "HIGH STRIKER"..."

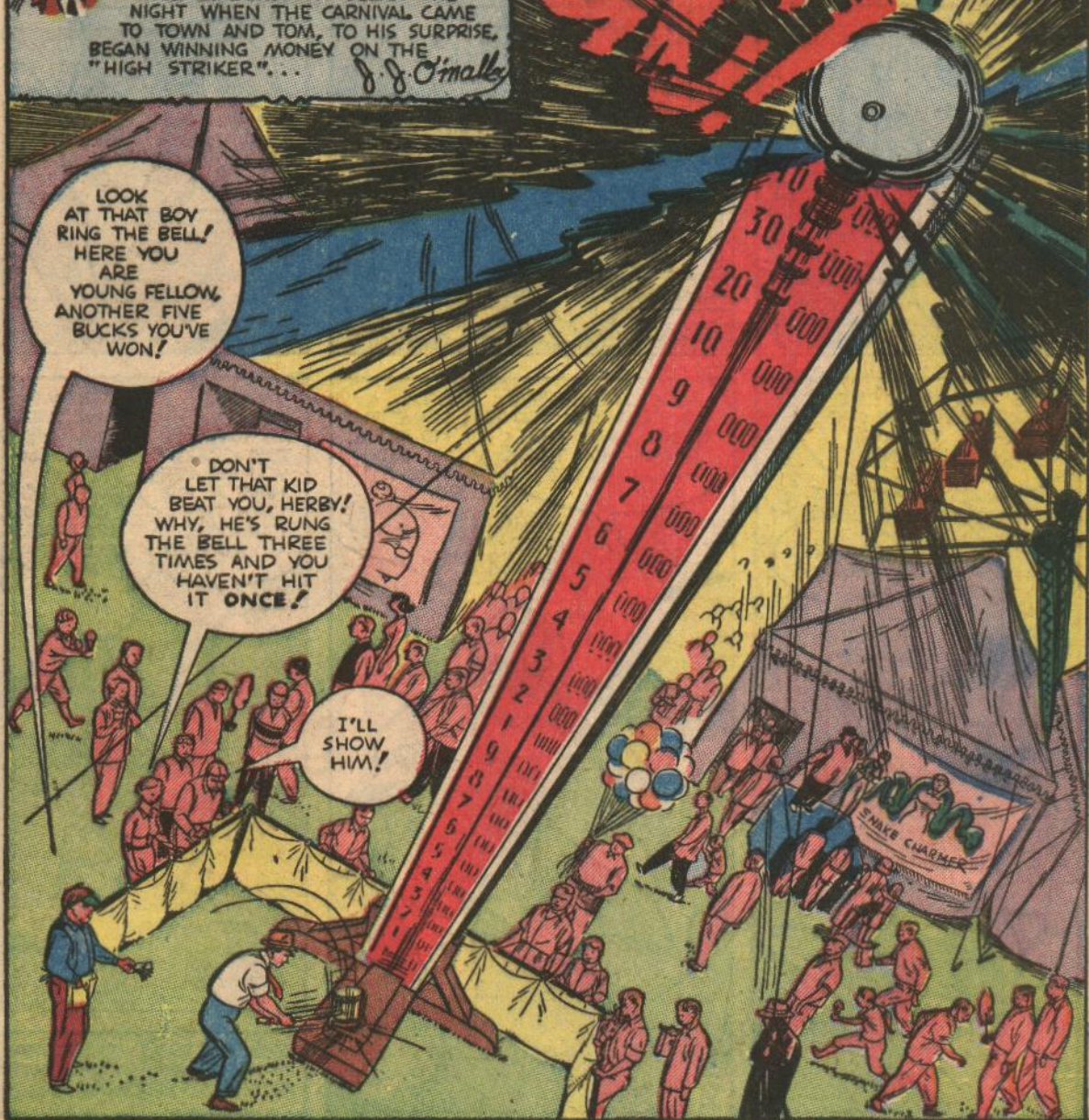
J. J. O'Malley

RACKET!

LOOK AT THAT BOY RING THE BELL! HERE YOU ARE YOUNG FELLOW, ANOTHER FIVE BUCKS YOU'VE WON!

DON'T LET THAT KID BEAT YOU, HERBY! WHY, HE'S RUNG THE BELL THREE TIMES AND YOU HAVEN'T HIT IT ONCE!

I'LL SHOW HIM!



RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION



SUCH WAS TOM'S INTRODUCTION TO WORLD WIDE SHOWS...AND WITH IT HIS EDUCATION BEGAN!

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION



RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION



IT WAS NEARLY A WEEK BEFORE TOM CRAIG LEARNED THAT THE "SWINGING BALL" HAD A "GAFF" LIKE THE "HIGH STRIKER"... BUT THAT WASN'T ALL TOM LEARNED!

YOU MEAN IT WASN'T SKILL ON MY PART?

OF COURSE NOT! TURK SHIFTS THE FRAME BY PRESSING THIS BOARD, SO THE BALL HITS OR MISSES AS HE WANTS



GEE... EVERY GAME ON THE LOT MUST BE GAFFED! SAY... WHAT'S THAT?... A WOMAN'S VOICE! AND IS SHE MAD!

AND I'M WISE TO YOUR RACKET, TURK GORKY! MY HUSBAND AND I HAD \$10,000 WHEN WE CAME TO THIS CIRCUS AND YOU'VE TAKEN HIM FOR \$8000 OF IT WITH YOUR CROOKED BETTING!



WE HAVE \$2000 LEFT AND I INTEND TO STOP YOU FROM GETTING IT, EVEN IF I HAVE TO GO TO THE POLICE.

HMM... SO HE STILL HAS \$2000 LEFT... WELL... SOUNDS VERY INTERESTING!



AH, TURK! JUST THE MAN I WANT TO SEE. MY WIFE FOUND OUT ABOUT MY LOSSES TO YOU. GIVE ME A SPORTING CHANCE. I'LL BET \$2000 AGAINST YOUR \$8000 THAT I'LL SNAP A PIECE OF CHALK FROM MY WIFE'S MOUTH WITH MY EYES BLINDFOLDED!

HAW, HAW! BLINDFOLDED? I'D BE A CHUMP FOR NOT TAKING YOU UP. OK. THE BET'S ON TONIGHT!

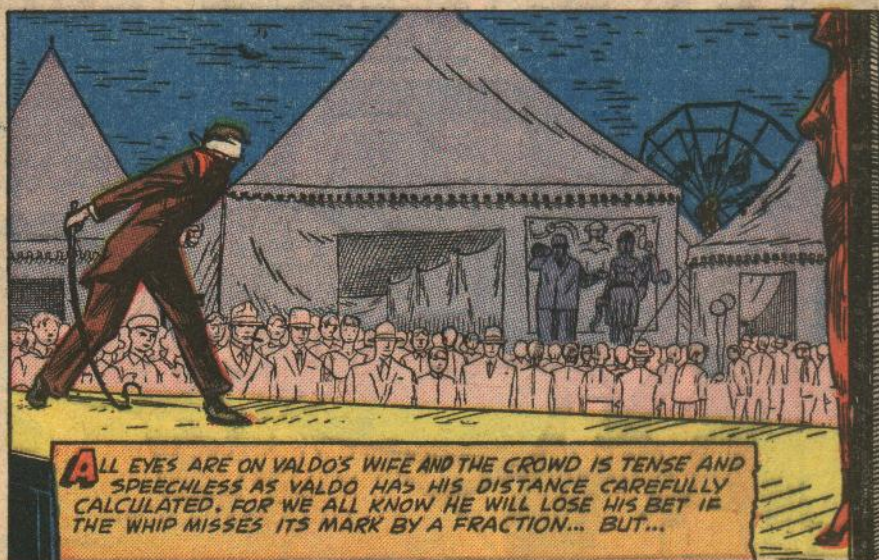
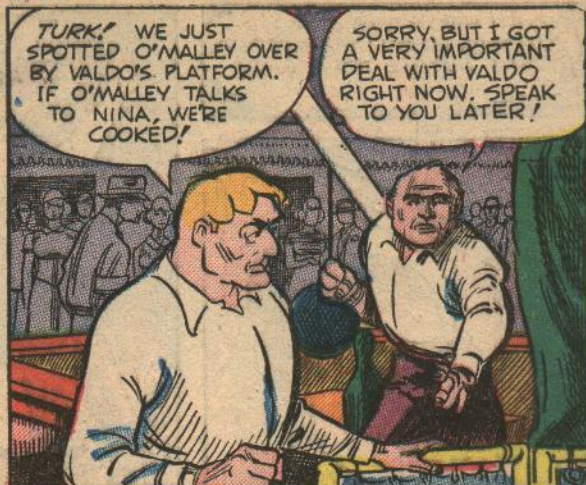


WHAT A SAP! YOU CAN TELL HE'S NOT BEEN AROUND CARNIVALS LONG ENOUGH TO KNOW WHEN HE'S LICKED. I JUST CAN'T LOSE!



THAT NIGHT...

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

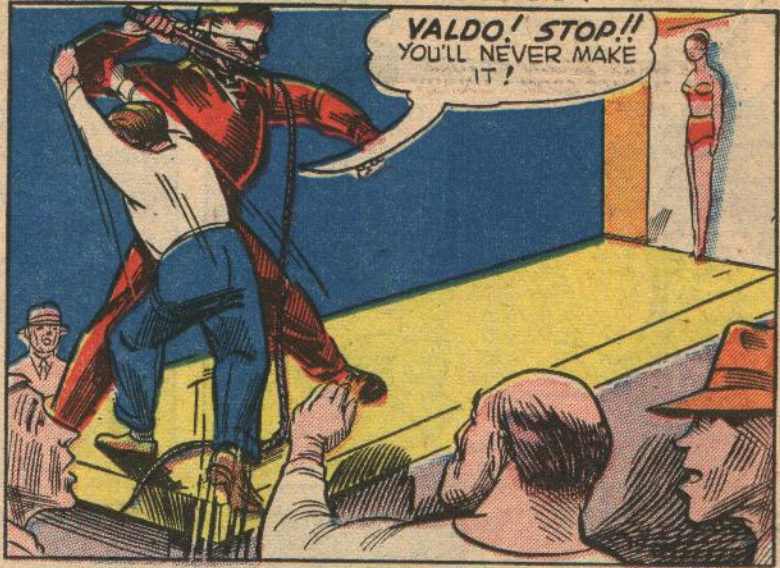


RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

GOSH! WHAT'S TOM CRAIG CLIMBING UP ON THE PLATFORM FOR? MAYBE IT'S A GAG!



VALDO! STOP!! YOU'LL NEVER MAKE IT!



I OVERHEARD YOU MAKING THAT BET WITH TURK, AND I JUST SAW HIM SNAP OFF A COUPLE OF INCHES FROM YOUR WHIP SO YOU WOULD MISS THE CHALK!

I FEEEX TURK... AND QUEEK!

COME ON, STEVE. WE'D BETTER HANDLE THIS!



BEFORE TURK COULD REACH HE GAVE THE CARNEY'S BATTLE-CRY...



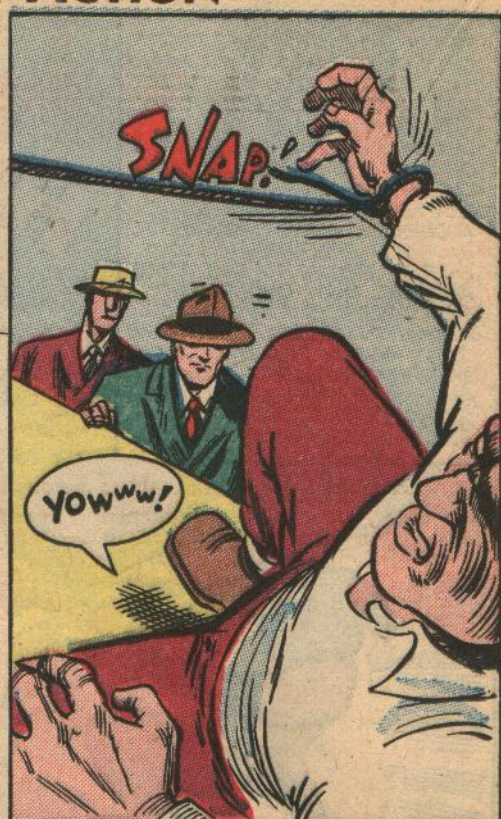
RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

AT THE SHOUT OF "HEY RUBE" EVERY CARNEY ON THE LOT RALLIED TO THE BATTLE BEGUN BY TURK GORRY AND HIS CREW... USUALLY SUCH CONFLICTS ARE BETWEEN CARNIVAL MEN AND TOWNSFOLK... OR EVEN THE POLICE... IN THIS CASE IT WAS GRIFTER AGAINST GRIFTER, STICK AGAINST STICK, ROUGHNECK AGAINST ROUGHNECK, IN A MAD FREE-FOR-ALL... ONE FACTION TRYING TO BEAT DOWN ANOTHER, WITH ONLY THREE MEN... TURK, TOM AND VALDO... KNOWING THE REAL REASON WHY! THAT REASON WAS THAT TURK WANTED TO DODGE THE LAW LONG ENOUGH TO WIN THE LAST TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS FROM TRUSTING VALDO.

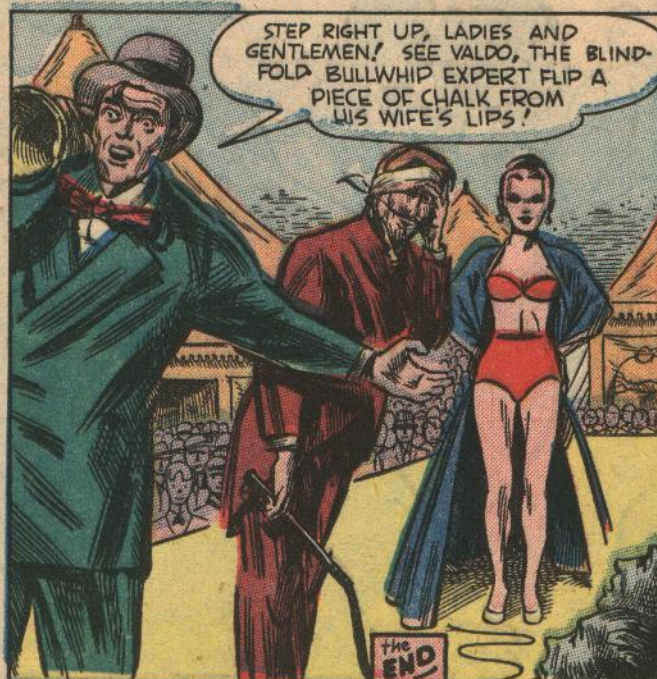
HEY RUBE!



RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION



AND SO THE WORLD WIDE SHOWS CONTINUED ON ITS WAY, NO BETTER, NO WORSE THAN MOST OTHER CARNIVALS... ONLY TOM CRAIG WAS A "STICK" NO LONGER... HE'D DROPPED ALL CONNECTIONS WITH THE "GRIFTERS" WHO TRIM THE CHUMPS LIKE YOU... TOM HAD A BETTER JOB...



YES, THERE'S A LOT OF GOOD FUN AT A CARNIVAL... THE BULLWHIP ACT, THE FERRIS WHEEL... AND ALL THAT... FUN PLAYING THE GAMES, TOO, IF YOU DON'T MIND ALWAYS LOSING, AS YOU WILL... BELIEVE ME!



J.J. O'Malley
INSPECTOR



IT'S A RACKET

Rackets have been with us since the dawn of history. They are found in the customs of primitive tribes, through the civilizations of ancient Rome and Greece as well as the Middle Ages when feudal lords and robber barons held sway. Now, in this enlightened Twentieth Century, rackets flourish as much as ever, though now they are more clearly defined. However, in the public mind there is still some confusion between legitimate business and certain types of rackets. In fact it is not uncommon for some businesses to degenerate into the racket category.

Let's take as an example, a famous racket of ancient Rome. At this time of Julius Caesar, the wealthiest man in all Rome was Marcus Crassus, also the racketeer supreme. Posing as a public benefactor, Crassus built up what was really the first organized fire company, composed of squads of bucket-passers who were constantly on call.

Naturally, the citizens subscribed for such service, so in a sense Crassus was providing the first fire insurance as well, except that he never paid off. The more fires the higher the rate because there was more work for Crassus's crew. So his organization included the first firebugs. It was their job to start fires in areas where people had failed to subscribe to the service. The burning of those sections was a lesson to the non-subscribers. It also made Crassus's regular customers very happy, to know that they were living in districts where fires weren't likely to occur.

Out of that, Crassus developed a real estate racket. He would march his bucket brigade ahead of the approaching conflagration and offer to buy property that was in the fire's path. Naturally a man would sell a house cheap rather than wait for it to be burned out. But once it belonged to Crassus, he put his crowd to work to save it. His outfit included the first strong-arm mob, too, because it couldn't stand competition from volunteer firemen. They had to be discouraged by slugging tactics.

We don't have to go back to the times of

Marcus Crassus to laugh at such outlandish practices. Only a century ago, America's big cities found themselves in the grip of a very similar problem but with a reverse twist. Fire companies operated on a volunteer basis and their markers — some of which can be seen today — were placed on the sides of houses. Competition became so keen that one outfit would lie in wait for another and start a free-for-all when it came along. Fighting over who was to put out the fire became a more urgent issue than putting out the fire itself.

That's one big reason why municipal fire companies came into being. Insurance companies, too, provide and encourage all forms of fire prevention and lessening of fire hazards. But the racketeers of today are the firebugs themselves. The schemes of "torches" who seek to swindle insurance companies, provide graphic stories. Arson is a crime now, punishable even by death in certain states, if committed in dwellings where human lives are jeopardized by the act. So this is an example of one racket that has been completely outlawed.

One of the most notorious of rackets was developed some twenty years ago, when a phoney life insurance company was used as a "front" for a lottery. On payment of ten dollars, a customer was given a hundred dollar "policy" in the event of death within a short period and at the same time was entitled to "dividends" which were to be paid by monthly "drawings." Actually, people were paying ten times more than their insurance was worth, the lottery being the real thing they were buying. The small-fry racketeers who worked as "insurance agents" moved fast, but they didn't stay ahead of the law very long. The company folded so fast it couldn't even pay its own death claim.

Without a doubt, the most insidious form of racket is the sort that poses as legitimate business, preying upon the average man's confidence in fair enterprise and recognized products. Often racketeers buy into some well-known company

in order to unload spurious goods. Their plea is always that they have simply followed the pattern of big business. They do not trouble to add that they are referring only to the type of big business that has already been honeycombed by racketeers.

There is an erroneous notion that brutality and violence are too crude for the modern big-time racketeer. That's the sort of propaganda that the racketeers themselves encourage. They simply have covered their methods by emphasizing one motive instead of another. Their favorite trick, for instance, is to play upon the greed of the victim.

This is the basis of the famous "green goods" swindle which is really the granddaddy of its tribe. A customer was offered counterfeit money — subtly styled "green goods" in the circular he received — in return for ten percent of the amount in ordinary cash. That is, if he paid a hundred dollars in genuine money, he'd receive a thousand of the "green."

To encourage customers, the gyps would mail them samples, suggesting that they pass a single dollar at the local bank and call it an accident, should the counterfeit be detected. However, it never was detected. The reason: the so-called "green goods" was actually genuine money, intended to convince the sucker as to the quality of the counterfeits that it was supposed to represent.

Customers who fell for this game were given a bundle of blank paper with a few genuine bills on the outside. At no time did the racketeers violate the counterfeiting laws. From his standpoint, that made the game doubly safe. He'd committed no crime and the burden being on the sucker, the latter would never squawk. But the crime was actual, just the same. Today the law clamps down on all such swindles, regardless of the sucker's status.

There is a good example in the case of the big con games where a dupe is deceived into betting a huge sum on a horse race. Always, the money is in cash which the sucker drew from the bank. All the sucker has to do is distort the story of how he paid the money. By simply claiming that he realized something was phoney, but paid up under threat, he puts the burden on the racketeers. It isn't a case of whether the sucker is right or wrong. The real issue is that the racketeer is always wrong and therefore has no defense.

The final appeal is that of sympathy, which in a sense is the meanest racket of all. This is the type of swindle that everyone should be posted against, since it may strike anyone at any time. The specialists in this field are the most

contemptible of racketeers because they intercept funds which often would be given to a worthy cause.

One type of phoney is the unhappy college professor. He shows up at the home of a boy who is away at college and chats cheerily with the family about their boy's prospects. Or sometimes he drops in on an old alumnus, who hasn't been back to the campus for twenty years or more.

In either case, the pitch is the same. It winds up with the prof saying that he's low on funds, or breaking down completely over some financial problem that he simply can't meet on a college professor's modest salary. The fond parents and the old grads fall for this and offer him a cash loan which he accepts gratefully and goes his way. The "professor" never stays for dinner if he can help it, because he doesn't want to lose time working a town. Needless to say, he isn't a professor at all, but a phoney who has familiarized himself with that particular college and has acquired his sucker lists from the pages of its catalog.

Of all the sympathy workers, the worst are the hearse chasers. They spend their time reading obituary columns. The meanest are the racketeers who ship unordered merchandise, usually on a C.O.D. basis to the home of a deceased person, on the chance that the family will pay up. It's a safe bet from the grafter's standpoint; nobody can ever disprove his claim that the dead man ordered the goods.

More daring crooks really play upon the sympathies of the bereaved family by claiming to be an old friend of the deceased. Later, while such a swindler is expressing mutual sorrow with the relatives, he brings up the matter of a loan that he made to his dear, dead friend. Chances often are that he'll get it paid back out of insurance or inheritance money.

Actually, the racketeer never even knew the dead man, let alone loaned him any money. Vultures of this type play the obit columns and establish contact at funeral parlors. Along with being the meanest of rackets, it's one of the safest, as the swindler can play the mourner act until he's sure of his ground.

The adage: "There's nothing new under the sun" applies to most rackets. Usually the so-called "new" swindles are old ones with a fresh twist. There are styles in frauds as well as in everything else and those styles keep coming back.

Watch for that pattern, the glib, rehearsed manner of the chap who knows all the answers.

Then you'll know that whatever he offers, it's a racket.

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

ARLENE WELDON WAS A VERY MERRY WIDOW WITH PLenty TO LIVE FOR UNTIL SHE MET UP WITH...

The Lonely Hearts RACKET

AND FOUND THAT SHE HAD A LOT TO BE SORRY FOR AS WELL!



THE HEALING OF LONELY HEARTS HAS BECOME BIG BUSINESS IN AMERICA, SO BIG THAT IT OFFERS OPPORTUNITIES FOR HUMAN VULTURES TO PREY ON THE UNWARY. ARTHUR GAULT... THAT WAS ONE OF HIS NAMES... BELONGED TO THE BROTHERHOOD OF BUZZARDS. HE'D TAKEN ONE DUPE AFTER ANOTHER AND ARLENE WELDON WAS NEXT IN LINE. BUT ARLENE HADN'T ANY IDEA OF WHAT LAY AHEAD THAT DAY SHE CHATTED WITH HER SISTER, CLAIRE BANKS... SOME LONELY HEARTS' CLUBS ARE LEGITIMATE BUT NOT THE ONE IN THIS STORY.

ART CAPPELLO

ARLENE, IT'S BEEN A **YEAR** NOW SINCE GEORGE DIED. YOU REALLY SHOULD BE MAKING FUTURE PLANS...

I AM, CLAIRE. LOOK WHAT CAME IN THE MAIL TODAY!



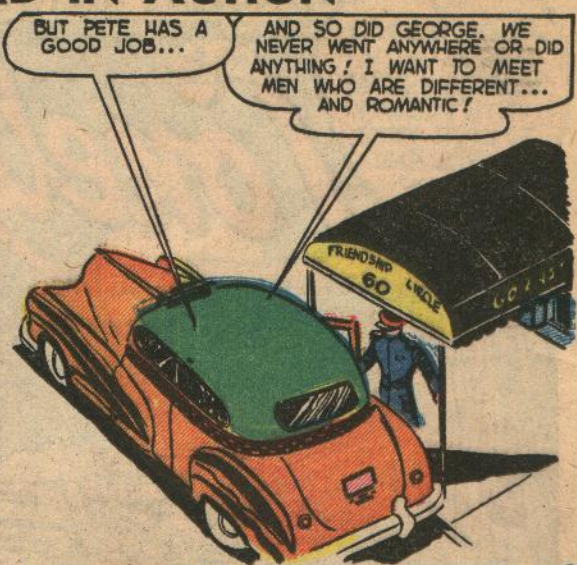
INTRODUCTORY MEMBERSHIP
FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE
ADMIT *Arlene Weldon*
AND ONE COMPANION
Vera Bouelle
DIRECTOR

A LONELY HEART CLUB? YOU MEAN YOU'RE GOING THERE?

OF COURSE, CLAIRE, AND YOU'RE COMING WITH ME. IT WILL BE FUN!



RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION



RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION



"WITHIN A FEW DAYS ARLENE WELDON RECEIVED THE EXPECTED CALL FROM VERA ROSELLE... AS A RESULT, A LUNCHEON DATE WAS ARRANGED... FOR A FEE, OF COURSE... WITH A DEBONAIR GENTLEMAN NAMED ARTHUR GAULT."



DEAR, DEAR, IT'S SO LATE, AND I HAVE A BUSINESS TO RUN, YOU KNOW! THANKS FOR THE LOVELY LUNCH!

AND THANKS FOR INTRODUCING ME TO ARLENE. THIS WILL BE A REAL FRIENDSHIP, I'M SURE!

AS THE WEEKS PASSED...

I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND CLAIRE COMING ALONG WITH US FOR THE DRIVE?

WHY SHOULD I MIND? CLAIRE IS PRACTICALLY ONE OF THE FAMILY... OR WILL BE!



DESPITE CLAIRE'S OBJECTION TO SUCH A RAPID FIRE ROMANCE, ARLENE AND GAULT WERE MARRIED BY AN ACCOMPLICE OF GAULT POSING AS A JUSTICE OF PEACE...



BE A REAL FRIENDSHIP? DO YOU MEAN A LASTING ONE?

CERTAINLY! ALL MY LIFE I HAVE BEEN LOOKING FOR SOMEONE LIKE YOU, COULD I EVER GIVE YOU UP?



WHAT DID ARTHUR MEAN BY "ONE OF THE FAMILY"?

SIMPLY THAT HE AND I ARE GOING TO BE MARRIED VERY SOON!



HOW LOVELY IT IS HERE, AWAY FROM THE CITY, WITHOUT A CARE IN THE WORLD!

AND YOU SHOULD NEVER HAVE A WORRY AGAIN, MY DEAR. NOW THAT WE'RE MARRIED, I CAN HANDLE ALL YOUR FINANCIAL MATTERS!



RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

LISTEN, HONEY... CLAIRE DROPPED ME A NOTE THAT SHE WOULD BE AT THE STATION WITH A FRIEND... I'D LIKE TO BE THERE TO PICK THEM UP!

WE'LL TALK ABOUT THAT WHEN WE GET BACK TO THE HOTEL. TOO BAD THAT BIG STOCK DEAL HAD TO COME UP AT A TIME WHEN I WAS IN THE MIDST OF THE BIG AIRPLANE TRANSACTION FOR TODAY!



I COULD SALVAGE THOSE STOCKS MY PARTNER HAS UP AT THE CABIN, IF IT WERE POSSIBLE THAT YOU WOULD PICK THEM UP FOR ME. I CAN ALSO MEET YOUR SISTER AT THE TRAIN STATION WHILE YOU ARE GONE!

OF COURSE I WILL PICK UP YOUR STOCKS, DEAR. I REALIZE IT INVOLVES QUITE A LARGE SUM OF MONEY.



AS SOON AS ARLENE IS ON HER WAY TO THE CABIN, GAULT CARRIES OUT HIS SCHEME TO RID HIMSELF OF CLAIRE AND HER FRIEND... NO DOUBT HE SUSPECTS TROUBLE.

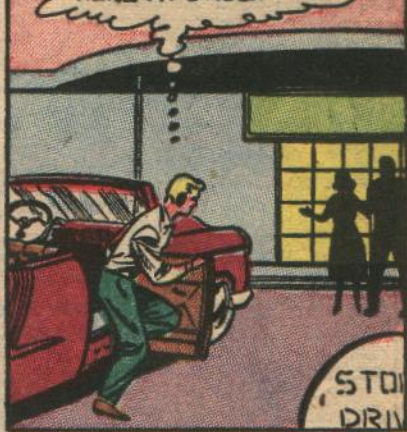


LISTEN, BRAD... ARLENE IS ON HER WAY UP THERE. GIVE HER A BUNDLE OF OLD FOLDED NEWSPAPERS WRAPPED TO LOOK LIKE IMPORTANT STOCKS!

O.K. AND YOU WANT ME TO DETAIN HER HERE UNTIL UNTIL YOU PHONE HER TO RETURN HER. I'LL MAKE IT CONVINCING!



AH, THERE'S CLAIRE AND...ER... THAT LOOKS LIKE PETE JOYCE WITH HER... HMMM... HE'S A SPECIAL INVESTIGATOR. I MUST TRY TO GET THEM TO LEAVE HERE AT ONCE.



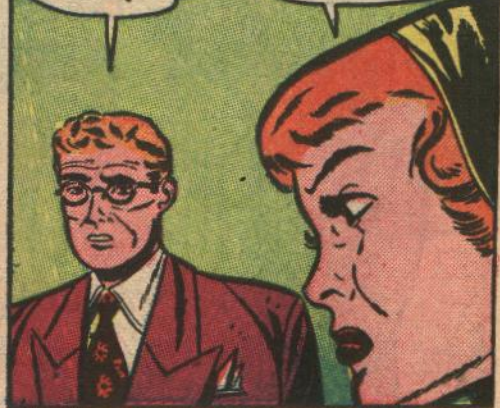
WHY HELLO... YOU PROBABLY DIDN'T GET THE WIRE I SENT. ARLENE AND I HAD A LITTLE FUSS AND I HAVE AN IDEA SHE RETURNED TO THE CITY!

WELL... JUST AS I THOUGHT, I ALWAYS SAID SHE WAS TOO GOOD FOR YOU! I SUPPOSE WE'LL HAVE TO GO BACK.



GAULT IS UP TO SOMETHING... DO YOU REALLY THINK ARLENE LEFT?

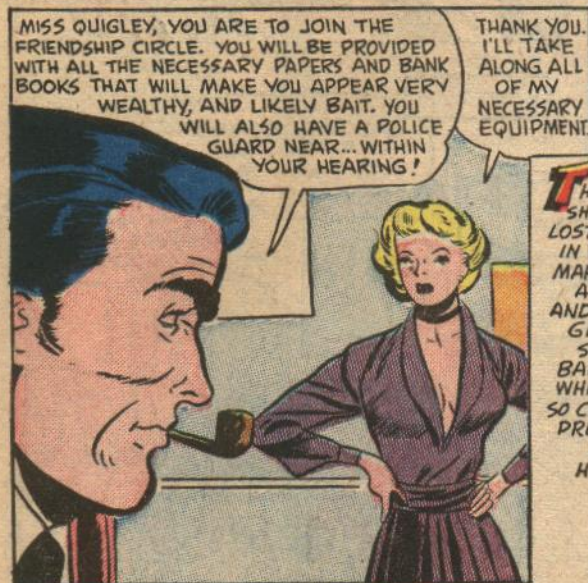
WAIT, PETE. I'LL GO TO HIS HOTEL. I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN FIND OUT!



RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION



IN DESPERATION CLAIRE CAME TO MY OFFICE-ALARMED-AND GAVE ME WHAT VAGUE CLUES SHE HAD...



THE FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE LOST NO TIME IN WELCOMING MARY QUIGLEY, A YOUNG AND ATTRACTIVE GIRL WITH SIZEABLE BANK ACCOUNTS, WHICH WERE SO CAREFULLY PREPARED FOR HER...



RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION



"AT HEADQUARTERS, VERA ROSELLE RELATED HOW ARTHUR GAULT, USING ONE ALIAS AFTER ANOTHER, HAD SWINDLED FIVE WEALTHY WOMEN IN SUCCESSION, USING MARRIAGE AS THE FINAL METHOD OF GETTING AT THEIR FORTUNES..."

I'LL GIVE YOU ALL THE NAMES HE USED, INSPECTOR, SO YOU CAN TRACE BACK TO THE VERY START.

GOOD! FIRST THOUGH, LET'S TALK TO CLAIRE BANKS!

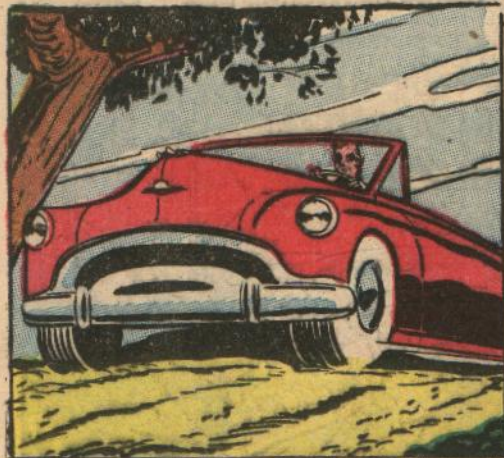


SHE'S RIGHT, CLAIRE. AS LONG AS GAULT SUSPECTS NOTHING, ARLENE IS SAFE. WE MUST MOVE CAUTIOUSLY.

COME ALONG, MISS CUPID. WE'LL GIVE YOU A CHANCE TO PLAY STRAIGHT!



SO PETE LOST NO TIME AS HE SPED ALONG THE WINDING ROADS WHICH HAD BECOME TREACHEROUS WITH RAIN AND MUD.



WHERE IS MY SISTER ARLENE? WHY DID YOU LET GAULT TRICK HER?

I'M SURE YOUR SISTER IS SAFE. I'D SUGGEST YOU INVESTIGATE GAULT'S CABIN!



LATER...

BUT PETE, YOU MUSTN'T GO TO THE CABIN... NOT YET...

I'D LIKE TO SETTLE WITH THAT GAULT MYSELF... FOR TRYING TO SEND ME ON A WILD GOOSE CHASE!



*BY THE TIME PETE WAS ON HIS WAY, GAULT DID FIND OUT FROM A STOOGE HE PLANTED NEAR CLAIRE'S APARTMENT.



SO THE BOY FRIEND IS ON THE WAY. TO MY CABIN! I'LL TAKE CARE OF THAT.



RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION



GAULT HAD TO ACT SWIFTLY. HE TRIED TO GET ARLENE AWAY FROM EVERYONE SO HE COULD PERSUADE HER TO GIVE HIM ALL HER FORTUNE FOR HIS PHONEY BUSINESS DEALS AND THEN SKIP BY HIMSELF.

HELLO BRAD...ARLENE STILL THERE? GOOD... TELL HER TO MEET ME AT THE ROADSIDE INN. I'M LEAVING RIGHT AWAY, AND TELL HER TO BE CAREFUL. THE ROADS ARE SLIPPERY!



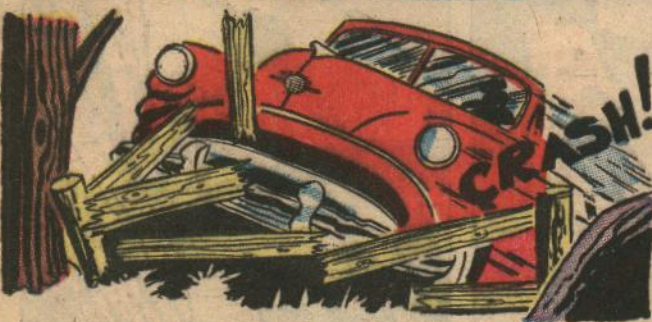
LATER...

I WONDER WHY IT TOOK BRAD SO LONG TO FIND THOSE STOCKS. I'VE BEEN WAITING A LONG TIME.



ARTHUR! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

THE ROADSIDE INN IS JUST AROUND THE BEND. I SAW THE CAR SWERVE AND GO THROUGH THE FENCE!



LISTEN, ARLENE... YOU MUST SIGN EVERYTHING OVER TO ME AT ONCE. I'M IN TROUBLE!

STOP! YOU'RE HURTING ME. I'M BEGINNING TO GET WORRIED ABOUT YOU. ALL YOU WANT FROM ME IS MONEY. NO! NO!

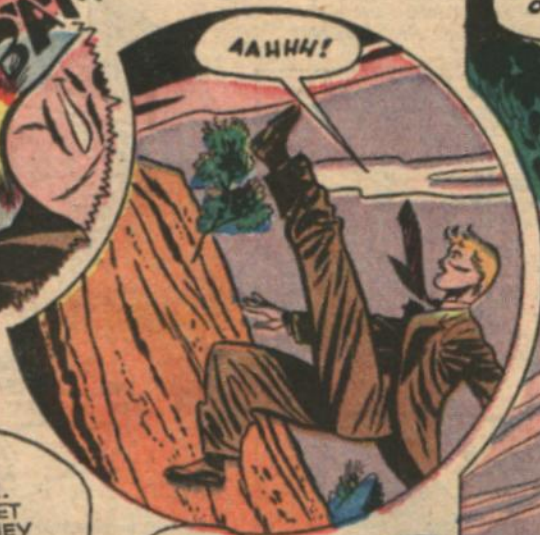
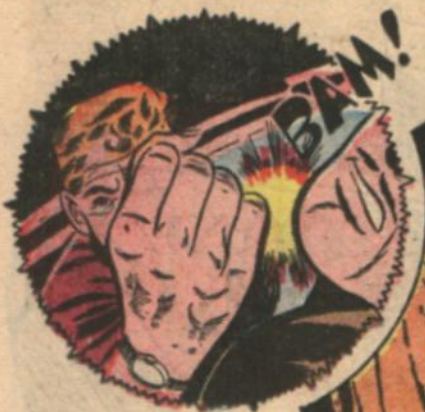


LOOKS LIKE I'M IN TIME AGAIN.

YOU THINK SO?



RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION



YOU CAN'T PROVE A THING AGAINST ME. O'MALLEY! ARLENE LET ME HANDLE HER MONEY OF HER OWN FREE WILL. I REPEAT... THERE'S NO EVIDENCE AGAINST ME!



WHERE ARE THOSE STOCKS YOU STOLE, LOU AMES?

YOU THIEF!



I'VE BEEN WAITING A YEAR TO CATCH UP WITH YOU, ROY CRANDELL.



SO THAT ENDED GAULT'S CAREER. HE SWINDLED UNFORTUNATE WOMEN AND DESERTED THEM. IN ARLENE'S CASE, HE GOT TOO GREEDY AND HIS PAST CAUGHT UP WITH HIM. THANKS TO PETE JOYCE AND HER SISTER CLAIRE, WE LET VERA ROSELLE OFF, BUT, OF COURSE, SHE HAD TO CLOSE UP SHOP. AND THAT WAS THE END OF HER 'FRIENDSHIP' CIRCLE.



RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

**GAMBLERS WON'T GAMBLE,
BUT SOMETIMES THEY WILL**

TAKE A CHANCE

I'M SIDNEY RADNER, OF HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS. I EXPOSE CROOKED GAMBLERS BY EXPLAINING AND DEMONSTRATING THEIR METHODS IN LECTURES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY... HERE IS A STORY BASED ON ACTUAL DATA FROM MY FILES... BUT FIRST LET ME EXPLAIN THE CROOKED METHODS INVOLVED, EXACTLY AS I DO IN MY LECTURES...



THESE LOOK LIKE ORDINARY DICE, GENTLEMEN, ACTUALLY THEY ARE MIS-SPOTTED. EACH HAS ONLY **THREE NUMBERS**...1, 3, 5... AND THESE ARE REPEATED ON EACH DICE. BUT THEY ARE DECEPTIVE, BECAUSE FROM WHATEVER ANGLE YOU VIEW THEM, YOU CAN **ONLY SEE THREE SIDES**, HENCE NO ONE IS SUSPICIOUS OF SUCH DICE!



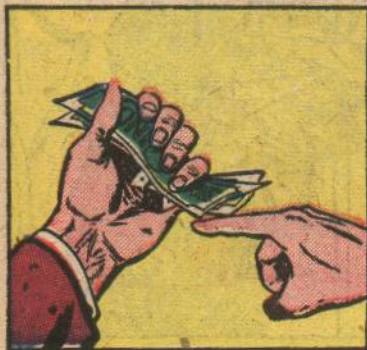
"HERE'S HOW SUCH DICE CAN BE BROUGHT INTO A GAME...THE MIS-SPOTS ARE HIDDEN UNDER DOLLAR BILLS IN THE LEFT HAND..."



"THE RIGHT HAND PICKS UP THE REGULAR DICE, THEN GOES TO THE LEFT HAND TO GET SOME MONEY AND DROPS THE REAL DICE THERE..."



"IN PEELING AWAY A BILL FOR THE NEXT BET, THE RIGHT HAND BRINGS ALONG THE MIS-SPOTS AND PROCEEDS TO ROLL THEM!"



RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

"THE STORY OF THESE DICE BEGINS WITH THE DAY WHEN I WAS ASKED TO AN IMPORTANT CONFERENCE AT A LARGE DEFENSE PLANT."

RADNER, WE'VE HAD A LOT OF TROUBLE FROM "FLOATING CRAP-GAMES" THAT BOB UP EVERY PAY DAY. WE WANT YOU TO INVESTIGATE THEM.



I'M GOING TO TURN YOU OVER TO A FOREMAN, TO OUTFIT YOU LIKE ONE OF THE WORKERS.

GOOD, DON'T FORGET TO INCLUDE A PAY-CHECK, COME PAY-DAY! THAT'S IMPORTANT!



I'M BIFF CADY. YOU'RE NEW AREN'T YOU? FOUND A WAY TO CASH YOUR PAY-CHECK YET?

NOT YET.

THEN TAG ALONG WITH US!



THOSE CHECK CASHING OUTFITS EITHER GIVE YOU THE SNOOT OR CHARGE YOU TOO MUCH.

WE'LL SHOW YOU HOW TO GET CASH AND MAKE CASH BESIDES!



"WHEN WE LEFT THE PLANT WE WERE TAILED BY A COUPLE OF PRIVATE COPS, STRAIGHT TO AN OLD POOL ROOM..."

GET YOUR PAY CHECKS CASHED HERE, FELLOWS. A HUNDRED CENTS ON THE DOLLAR!



HOW ABOUT JOINING IN A FRIENDLY CRAP-GAME, FELLOW? YOU LOOK LUCKY!

SUITS ME!



RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION



"IN THE HALF HOUR THAT FOLLOWED, I SAW THAT BIFF WAS SWITCHING MIS-SPOTTED DICE IN AND OUT OF THE GAME... THE WAY HE HELD HIS MONEY WAS THE GIVE-AWAY!"

HERE'S YOUR DICE AND I'M BETTING FIVE BUCKS AGAINST YOUR NEXT ROLL!



"BUT IT WAS **EQUALLY** OBVIOUS THAT CHUB WAS DOING ALL THE ROLLING WITH THE PHONIES, THEREBY DIVERTING SUSPICION FROM THE ACTUAL SWITCHER!"

TEN'S MY POINT AND I JUST MADE IT!

GEE, ARE **YOU** LUCKY!



HEY... WHAT'S THE IDEA? I'M NOT PULLING ANYTHING.

WE JUST WANT YOU OUT OF CIRCULATION, THAT'S ALL.

IT LOOKED LIKE A HARD NUT TO CRACK UNTIL AN IDEA FLASHED TO ME! I WIG-WAGGED A PRIVATE COP TO GRAB BIFF CADDY..."



"CHUB LANG WAS IN THE MIDDLE OF A WINNING RUN AND DIDN'T NOTICE THAT BIFF HAD LEFT, UNTIL HE DECIDED IT WAS TIME TO SWITCH THE FAIR DICE BACK!"

COME ON, GUY! RATTLE THEM BONES!

DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE FELLOW WHO WAS BETTING AGAINST YOU. HE QUIT. I GUESS HE WENT BROKE!



ANOTHER TEN! AND IT ALWAYS COMES UP TWO FIVES.

DON'T YOU EVER ROLL ODD NUMBERS?

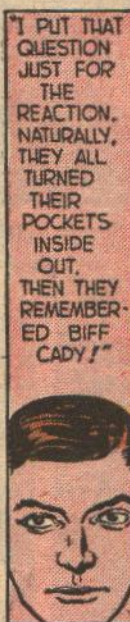


SURE, HE ROLLS **ALL** ODDS, BUT THEY **ALWAYS** ADD UP **EVEN**

BUT HE NEVER DOES SEVEN OUT!

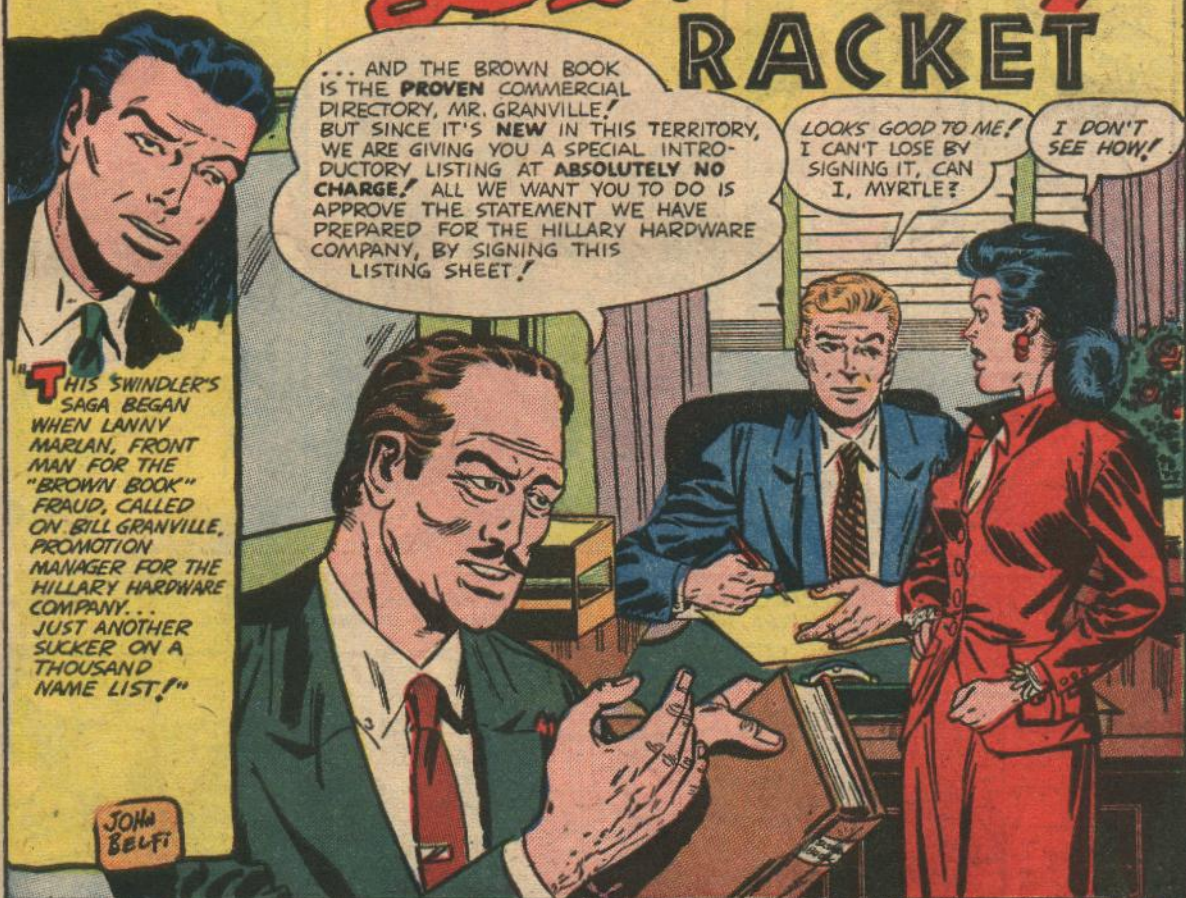


RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION



RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

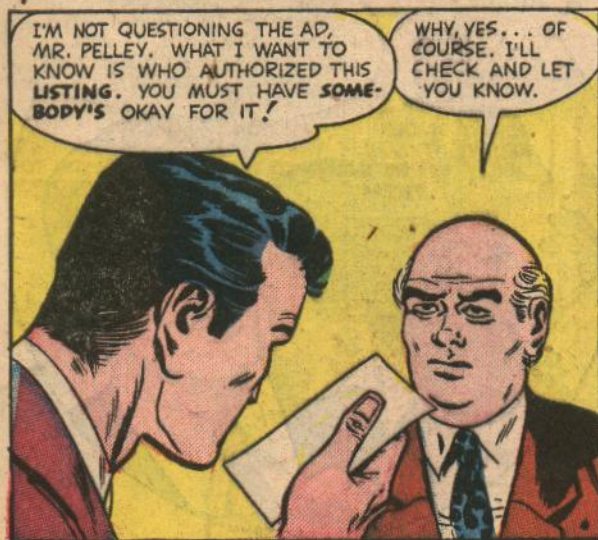
The PHONEY Directory RACKET



RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION



RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION



RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION



"BILL'S FLYING TACKLE WASN'T NEEDED, FOR I ALREADY HAD THE PLACE SURROUNDED. WE BAGGED PELLEY ALONG WITH MARLAN AND SHIPPED THEM BOTH TO HEAD-QUARTERS!"



THE END

The Engagement Racket



FRANK FROLLO



WHEN HE WENT TO BUY THE RING, THE GIRL OFFERED TO INTRODUCE HIM TO A FRIEND WHO COULD GET IT FOR HIM WHOLESALE.

THE G.I. PAID \$150 OR MORE FOR THE DIAMOND RING WHICH TURNED OUT TO BE GLASS AND THE FOLLOWING DAY THE GIRL SHIPPED OUT WITH HER CONFIDENCE MAN. THESE SWINDLERS WERE EVENTUALLY CAUGHT AND THE RACKET SMASHED.



AN OLD RACKET WITH A NEW TWIST WAS WORKED ON G I S ON THEIR LAST FURLOUGH BEFORE GOING OVERSEAS. BEING LONELY AND A STRANGER IN TOWN THE G.I. WAS EASY PREY TO THE PRETTY YOUNG ACCOMPLICE OF THE "CON" MAN. HE MET THE GIRL, DATED HER FOR A WEEK AND SHE EASILY PUSHED HIM INTO AN ENGAGEMENT.

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